DRAFT

MEETING ON U.S.S. LIBERTY

DAVID SMALL, L
MIKE PEAY, L
R. JOEST, NAVY
Fabian Kwiatek, L/C
Margaret M. Dean NEA/IAI

The Navy has now found enough documents that they can supply L with all the information that L needs to pursue the case on the Liberty. The amount would be in the neighborhood of $7 million and could be remitted to the Navy coffers.

After a long discussion on various arguments that might be presented by both sides, L decided that it would be ready for its part the beginning of October. L plans to send out a cable to post, after camp david, requesting the post to so inform the Israelis. L wants to know the sense of NEA/IAI on this matter, stressing the fact that the matter needs to be settled somwhow.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY M.C.Wood DATE 08/24/82
POS for AD. LAA. DATE
AUTH. NEA 07(5)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED & RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

[redacted]

[redacted] does not seriously impair relations.

BACKGROUND ON LIBERTY NEGOTIATIONS

As you personally know the negotiations and settlement of claim for personal death and injury were settled in 7 and 1968. The matter of claim onthe liberty itself [illegible] lowed to become inactive.

The resurgency of interest has come about because of four factors:

1. Annual claims report to the Congress. Since the claim was formally initiated it is reported annually to the Congress where it comes under public scrutiny.

2. Apparently there was a book published last year in England on the Liberty incident but I have not been able to track down any of the publishing details.

3. Public interest as expressed in letters to US and to the Congress. We get one every week or so. Also remember the number of FOI requests we have.

4. Atherton trip. During one of Atherton's trips he apparently mentioned the matter to the Israelis and they said Sure, we're ready to negotiate' and the matter was back to us. You might want to follow up on this conversation.

Dec. 1 - see attached cable

On the matter of the claim itself; and what actions are possible:

1. Diplomatic note to the Israelis stating that we are relinquishing the claim for whatever reason (if we want to give a reason).

2. Silently let it glide into the deep, which the GOI would probably do, but L, the Congress and the public probably will not. As L says, "But we have a good claim". Also Navy would rather pursue.

3. Obtain a small, nominal settlement, which clearly establishes a precedent and our rights in the case butwhich does not seriously impair relations.

[redacted]